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ANNUAL REPORT.

IN the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Society, attention was called to the desirability of increasing considerably the membership, with a view to accomplishing more in the way of publication. It is the opinion of those acquainted with the condition of Dante studies in the United States and in England, that the Society could easily have at its disposal a much larger number of scholarly contributions to the subject of Dante's life and work, of greater or less scope, if it had the means to print them. In spite of all that has been done by students, many sides of the poet are still in need of illustration, and many tools for the adequate study of him must be perfected or supplied in their entirety. It should also be the aim of the Society to further the better knowledge and use of already existing materials. Accordingly, its publications ought to contain, on the one hand, what is of value to the technical Dantist; and, on the other, what will help cultivated persons desirous of familiarizing themselves with the best that has been thought and

said about the poet, to an easier and more complete attainment of their end. To accomplish these objects, however, much more money is required than is now available for the use of the Council. The appeal in the last Report resulted in a slight increase in membership, though far from commensurate with what had been hoped. The Council desires again to emphasize the necessity of earnest coöperation for the enlargement of the Society, on the part of all its present members.

The prize annually offered by the Society through the generosity of one of its members, for an essay upon a subject connected with Dante, is regularly competed for by one or more persons. It is to be regretted, however, that the competition is not taken part in by students outside of Cambridge. As will be seen by reference to the terms of the competition, printed on pages 12-13, the prize is now open to students, or graduates of not more than three years' standing, of any college or university in the United States. Furthermore, competitors may write not only on the subjects proposed for the ensuing year, but also on any subject that has been proposed during the nine years in which the prize has been offered. That the members of the Society may see what has been the nature of these subjects, a list of them, from the beginning, is here printed. Those that have been written upon are marked with an asterisk [*].

For the year 1886-87 :

- *1. *A translation into English of Dante's Letters, with explanatory and historical comments.*
- 2. *On the individual characteristics and comparative importance of the commentators of the Fourteenth Century on the Divine Comedy.*
- *3. *Dante's obligations to the schoolmen, especially to Thomas Aquinas.*
- 4. *A study of the allegory of the last six cantos of the Purgatory.*
- 5. *On those characteristics of Dante's style, whether of thought or language, which distinguish him from his contemporaries or immediate predecessors in Italy or France.*

For the year 1887-88 :

- *1. *Interpretation and reconciliation of the different accounts of his experiences after the death of Beatrice, given by Dante in the Vita Nuova and the Convito.*
- 2. *Dante's obligations to Aristotle.*
- 3. *The range and extent of Dante's acquaintance with the ancient classics.*
- *4. *A translation, with comment, of Dante's Quaestio de Aqua et Terra.*
- 5. *The characteristics and respective value of Scartazzini's and Lubin's editions of the Divine Comedy.*

For the year 1888-89 :

- 1. *The influence of Dante upon the political development of Italy during the present century.*
- 2. *The character of the Comment on the Divine Comedy of Benvenuto da Imola, and the contribution to Dantesque studies made by its first complete publication in the Vernon edition, 1887.*
- 3. *A translation, and a discussion of the genuineness, of the letter of Frate Ilario.*
- 4. *Dante's conception of the nature of the body in the spiritual realms.*
- 5. *On the genuineness and authenticity of the Chronicle of Dino Compagni, and its value in illustration of Dante's life.*

For the year 1889-90 :

- 1. *A description of Florence, and an account of the life of the Florentines, including their education and arts, in the last quarter of the Thirteenth Century.*

2. *A study of the circumstances that led to the banishment of Dante, and a collection of the documents relating to it.*
3. *The trustworthiness of Boccaccio's Life of Dante, and of the other accounts of him given by writers of the Fourteenth Century.*
4. *A critical study of the Canzoniere of Dante; its composition, the relation of the poems contained in it to Dante's other works, and a discussion of the genuineness of those doubtfully ascribed to him.*

For the years 1890-91, 1891-92 :

1. *The result of the critical studies of the text of the Divina Commedia by Witte, Moore, and Täuber.*
2. *The indebtedness of Dante to Brunetto Latini, as indicated by passages or references in the Divine Comedy and the Convito that may have been derived from, or suggested by, passages in the Trésor and the Tesoretto.*
- *3. *The rise of the dolce stil nuovo and its development up to the time of Dante.*
- *4. *The personal character of Dante as learned from his writings.*

For the years 1892-93, 1893-94 :

1. *A comparison of Dante's system of sins in Hell and Purgatory and an explanation of its apparent differences in the two realms.*
2. *Who was the Matilda of the earthly Paradise, and what is her allegorical and symbolical character?*
- *3. *The acquaintance of English writers from Chaucer to Gray with the Divine Comedy.*

For the year 1894-95 :

- *1. *Dante's influence upon Spanish literature during the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries.*
2. *A critical study of the lyrical poems attributed to Dante, but not included in the Vita Nuova and the Convito.*
3. *The influence of mediæval conceptions upon Dante's estimate of the ancient authors.*

For the year 1895-96 :

1. *Recent studies of the text of Dante, — especially those of Witte, Moore, and Täuber.*

2. *The allegory of the eighth and ninth cantos of the Inferno: the City of Dis, its demons, Furies, Medusa, the opposition to the entrance of the Poets; the heavenly messenger.*
- *3. *Petrarch's personal and literary attitude towards Dante.*

It will be seen that the subjects set for the Society's prize are such as to require of those who compete a scholarly investigation of some really important aspect of Dante's work. In general, the essays handed in have shown careful and thoughtful study of the problems discussed, and often a very creditable acquaintance with the best recent Dante literature, as well as with the poet himself. The Council believes, therefore, that the influence of the prize is valuable, and that it would be of great advantage to extend it to a larger number of young scholars.

A word of explanation is due the Society for the long delay in issuing this Report. By vote of the Society, at its Annual Meeting in May, 1894, the Reports are hereafter to be sent out in the autumn of each year, instead of in the early summer. For the autumn of 1895, the Secretary was directed to print in the Report, as a supplementary paper, a study of Dante scholarship in America, accompanied by a bibliography, promised by Mr. Theo. W. Koch, a member of the Society. Owing to unavoidable delays, Mr. Koch did not succeed in completing his paper, and at last it became necessary to postpone the publication of it till another year. The gap thus left has been filled by the Presi-

dent of the Society, Professor Norton, who has prepared a series of extracts from the little-known chronicle of Fra Salimbene, which illustrate passages in the Divine Comedy. The Report is accompanied further by a note upon the text of the Vita Nuova, by the Rev. Dr. E. Moore, reprinted from the London Academy; and by the usual bibliography of books and articles relating to Dante, received at the Harvard College Library during the year ending May 1, 1895. The Society desires to express its gratitude for many contributions to its collection of Dante books, made both by authors and by other benefactors.

ARTHUR RICHMOND MARSH, *Secretary.*

For the Council of the Dante Society.